

carefully compared with specimens in the Academy's collection. Dr. Stone stated that it was undoubtedly one of the hybrid warblers, and that it was somewhat similar to a specimen in the collection marked *leuco-bronchialis*.—ROBERT THOMAS MOORE, *Haddonfield, N. J.*

**Cape May Warbler in Virginia in Winter.**—On December 7, 1915, about 8:00 P.M., a Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) was brought to me alive but in a much weakened condition. According to the captor of the specimen, it was secured in the morning, in the snow, being barely able to flutter along. It revived considerably when taken to warmer quarters, but refused to eat. On the morning following it seemed even better, and ate banana from the hand. It rejected peanuts, but ate the banana readily. By the following evening it seemed weaker, however, and the next morning it was dead. The bird was apparently a young male, and with the exception of the fact that it had but three tail feathers, the plumage was comparatively perfect.—GEORGE M. SUTTON, *Bethany, W. Va.*

**The Occurrence of the Western House Wren on Smith's Island, Northampton County, Virginia.**—On May 13, 1910, I collected an adult male of *Troglodytes aëdon parkmani* at Smith's Island, Northampton County, Virginia. The specimen is Cat. No. 312912, U. S. National Museum. (Original number, 18946.) It was identified by Messrs. Ridgway, Oberholser, and Mearns.—EDGAR A. MEARNS, *Washington, D. C.*

**Bicknell's Thrush in Northeastern Illinois.**—On September 6, 1909, while collecting migrating warblers in the woods near Highland Park I shot a rather small specimen of *Hylocichla aliciae*, which on more careful examination proves to be a typical example of *Hylocichla aliciae bicknelli*. It is an adult male (H. K. C. No. 13169), and measured before skinning: length 7 in., extent 11.5 in., wing 3.75 in., tail 2.70 in. The average measurements of several males of *Hylocichla aliciae aliciae* in my collection are: length 7.5 in., extent 13 in., wing 4.25 in., tail 3.25 in. The only other record for the state is a specimen taken by Charles K. Worthen at Warsaw, May 24, 1884 (Ridgway, Orn. Ill. 1889).—HENRY K. COALE, *Highland Park, Ill.*

**Additions to the Birds of Custer County, Montana.**—In the months of November and December, 1909, I spent some time in the extreme southeastern part of Custer County, Mont., close to the South Dakota border. During this time I found three species of birds not included in the late Mr. E. S. Cameron's list of the Birds of Custer and Dawson Cos. (Auk, Vol. XXIV, p. 241 to 270 and 389 to 406. Vol. XXV, p. 39 to 56.) I sent these records to Mr. Cameron, who wrote me that he intended to publish some additions to his list later, and would include them then. Since the recent death of Mr. Cameron prevented the publication of these additions, I have decided to put them on record myself.

During the past summer I had an opportunity to examine the collection of birds at the University of Montana. In this collection I found a large number of specimens from Miles City and vicinity, taken by Mr. C. F. Hedges. Two of the birds I had observed were represented and a number more as well that are new to the region, including one that is entirely new to the State. In addition to this I have found a number of Mr. Hedges' specimens in the collection of Dr. L. B. Bishop at New Haven. The combination of these records presents sixteen species new to the region, as well as some other notes of interest on species that are not new.

**Nuttallornis borealis.** OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER.—One male, Miles City, June 8, 1902.

**Otocoris alpestris arctica.** PALLID HORNED LARK.—One male, Miles City, March 30, 1901.

**Astragalinus tristis pallidus.** WESTERN GOLDFINCH.—Comparing Mr. Hedges' specimens with Connecticut specimens in the same collection, I believe that they belong to the western race. One specimen taken at Miles City, December 25, 1899, makes the first winter record from this region.

**Calcarius lapponicus alascensis.** ALASKA LONGSPUR.—A specimen in Dr. Bishop's collection was taken at Miles City, September 24, 1900. A series of this species in the University of Montana collection, taken from September 20 to 27, 1900, probably also belong to this race, though they are labelled 'Calcarius pictus.'

**Spizella pusilla arenacea.** WESTERN FIELD SPARROW.—One, Miles City, May 11, 1902.

**Junco aikeni.** WHITE-WINGED JUNCO.—A series of ten specimens taken at Miles City between April 22 and 27, 1900. I found this bird in the Long Pine Hills, and secured a specimen December 5, 1909. Mr. S. S. Visher also found it breeding in this region July 20, 1910. (Auk, XXVIII, p. 14.)

**Junco hyemalis connectens.** SHUFELDT'S JUNCO.—One specimen, Miles City, January 15, 1900.

**Melospiza melodia montana.** MOUNTAIN SONG SPARROW.—One female, Miles City, September 27, 1900. There are also several specimens of *M. m. melodia* from the region with which to compare this bird, which is markedly grayer in plumage.

**Melospiza georgiana.** SWAMP SPARROW.—One female, Miles City, February 17, 1901. Though there are two other records of this species from Montana, this is the first from this region, and the first that can be accepted without question.

**Piranga ludoviciana.** WESTERN Tanager.—One female. Ft. Keough, June 1, 1902.

**Stelgidopteryx serripennis.** ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.—One male, Miles City, May 30, 1902.

**Mniotilta varia.** BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER.—One male, Miles City, May 21, 1902. This is the first record of this species for the State.

**Dendroica auduboni.** AUDUBON'S WARBLER.—Four specimens. Three from Little Pumpkin Creek, April 23, 26 and 27, 1900, and one from Ft. Keough, May 25, 1902.

**Oporornis tolmiei.** MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER.—One male, Ft. Keough, May 25, 1902.

**Wilsonia pusilla pileolata.** PILEOLATED WARBLER.—One specimen in Dr. Bishop's collection, September 22, 1900.

**Sitta canadensis.** RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—Seven specimens. Little Pumpkin and Otter Creeks, April 25-27, 1900, and one from Ft. Keough, May 18, 1902. I observed several of these birds in the Long Pine Hills, November 16, 1909.

**Regulus satrapa** (subspecies?). GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET.—I observed two of these birds in the Long Pine Hills, November 29, 1909.

**Regulus calendula calendula.** RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET.—One male, Ft. Keough, September 22, 1900.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, *West Haven, Conn.*

**The Rose Beetle Poisonous to Young Birds.**—In 1914, Mr. Ernest Napier, President of the New Jersey Fish and Game Commission reported to the Biological Survey the loss of hundreds of pheasant chicks and of numerous young ducks and chickens from eating rose beetles (*Macrodactylus subspinosus*). Four young Ring-necked Pheasants were examined and rose beetles found to compose 48, 30, 50 and 17 per cent respectively of their food. The largest number of rose beetles in any one was 12. The crops of these birds were only from one-fourth to three-fourths full and thoroughly ground up remains of the beetles were present in each gizzard, showing that the insects were being digested in regular course. There being no evidence of crop binding, to which the trouble had been attributed,<sup>1</sup> and a positive diagnosis of white diarrhœa being obtained, it was concluded that the rose beetles were not the direct cause of the mortality.

It is of great interest, therefore, that the rose beetle has recently been discovered to "contain a neuro-toxin that has an effect upon the heart action of both chickens and rabbits and is excessively dangerous as a food for chickens."<sup>2</sup> In experimental feeding of rose beetles to young chicks death resulted in from 9 to 24 hours. Similar results were obtained with an extract of rose chafers. Resistance to the poison increased rapidly with the age of the chicks and none over ten weeks old was killed.

Besides the obvious economic aspect of this discovery, and the indicated necessity of keeping young domesticated birds away from rose-beetles, the facts have an interesting bearing on the theory of "protected" insects and their warning colors. This, a poisonous insect according to the theory

<sup>1</sup> Prof. F. E. L. Beal informs the writer that it is sometimes necessary to open the crops of young turkeys because of clogging up by rose bugs.

<sup>2</sup> Lamson, George H., Jr.—The poisonous effects of the rose chafer upon chickens. *Journ. Ec. Ent.*, 8, No. 6, Dec., 1915, p. 548; *Science*, N. S., 43, Jan. 28, 1916, p. 139.